



**REAGAN DUNN**  
**Metropolitan King County Council, District 6**

Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen  
Washington State Senate  
VIA FACSIMILE

Speaker Frank Chopp  
Washington State House of Representatives  
VIA FACSIMILE

April 11, 2005

Dear Lt. Governor Owen and Speaker Chopp:

I write to express my concern over proposals to revive the estate tax in Washington. Restoring this tax will hurt families and businesses throughout our state and will ensure that millions more in taxpayer dollars be spent defending the Legislature's actions in court.

In a unanimous ruling earlier this year, the Washington State Supreme Court invalidated the tax, which had been on the books for a century. In 1981, voters in our state spoke loudly against the tax when they overwhelmingly passed Initiative 402, severely limiting the tax. The business community continues to tell us that it suffers from a burdensome regulatory climate, and that if we want our state's economy to grow, the burden must be lifted. Small and large business owners alike have continuously and passionately expressed their opposition to the death tax.

A forward-looking state is one that encourages prosperity. The death tax does just the opposite. Businesses will be driven out of our state at a time when jobs are scarce. It is incumbent upon the leadership in Olympia to recognize the risk associated with reinstating this tax.

I am currently circulating a similar letter for my colleagues to join in expressing their opinions on this subject. In addition, I intend to introduce a motion for consideration of the full Council next Monday that conveys the same strong concern about restoring this tax. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Reagan Dunn  
Metropolitan King County Councilmember  
District Six

cc: Rep. Lynn Kessler, House Majority Leader  
Rep. Bruce Chandler, House Republican Leader  
Senator Bill Finkbeiner, Senate Republican Leader  
Senator Lisa Brown, Senate Majority Leader